

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**CONTROL METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REDUCING THE EFFECTS
OF HARD DISK CONTAMINATION**

5 A method and apparatus for use with a rotating storage device. The rotating storage device includes a storage medium driven to rotate, a head for reading and writing information on the storage medium and a ramped loading mechanism in which the head is stored. In accordance with the method of the present invention, the head is loaded from the ramped loading mechanism onto the storage medium. Next, location information stored in said storage medium via said head is read. A location of the head is then retained for a predetermined period above a track of a region other than a valid storage region of said storage medium after successfully reading the location information.

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